



News Release

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Department of Health Moves Forward with New Long Term Care Program in Southern Utah

(St. George, UT) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) has kicked off a new long-term care project that serves the residents of Washington, Iron, Beaver, Garfield and Kane counties. This long-term care program, called Molina Independence Care, is the most recent of three projects implemented under the UDOH's Long Term Care Managed Care Initiative umbrella which also includes the Flexcare program in Salt Lake, Davis and Tooele Counties and the Weber MACS program in Weber, Morgan and Davis Counties.

The UDOH Initiative is aimed at promoting greater choice, independence and quality care for Medicaid enrollees with long-term care needs. The three programs strive to add expanded service options in support of the participants' health, safety and quality of life. This takes place by coordinating the services enrollees receive and involving enrollees, their families and other care givers with decisions regarding the enrollees' care. Molina Health Care will manage this project in conjunction with the Five County Area Agency on Aging.

Helen Robins, a 96-year-old resident of St. George, has been able to move into an assisted living center as an enrollee of the Molina Independence Care Program and is thrilled to be in her new home. "The Molina Independence Care program has been a blessing for Helen and our family," said Beverly Metcalf, Robins' daughter. "I had heard about the program in Salt Lake County and was so happy when I received the letter about a program starting in our area of the State. I was the first to apply and can now walk to visit my mother as often as I can," said Metcalf.

"The decision to implement a third initiative program was based on the success of Utah's first and second Long Term Care Managed Care Initiative programs, FlexCare and Weber MACS," said John Williams, Long Term Care Unit Director, UDOH. FlexCare began in April 2000 and currently serves over 375 residents. Weber MACS started in October of last year and serves approximately 58 residents.

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Carrie Dennis, Molina Independence Care Program Coordinator, is excited to initiate the next Long Term Care/Managed Care Initiative project in southwestern Utah. “This will add one more long-term care service option for our Medicaid eligible consumers and help fill a gap in our long-term care continuum,” said Dennis.

Enrollment into these projects is only available to persons over 18 years of age currently residing in a nursing facility or hospital. Molina Independence Care will have the same eligibility criteria and provide a similar package of services as the other initiative projects, however they will tailor the program to their community. Molina plans to improve the quality of life for adults in their community who need long-term care by helping them access the most effective set of service options to meet their individual needs.

These UDOH Long Term Care Managed Care Initiative programs are tailored and implemented by the community. In an effort to expand the initiative across the State, the UDOH has been meeting with various local long-term care networks to present the idea and determine the community’s readiness to implement such a demonstration project. The UDOH hopes to partner with other interested organizations to identify promising practices in support of the initiative. For more information please contact John Williams, Long Term Care Unit Director, at (801) 538-6021 or visit <http://health.utah.gov/medicaid/ltc.html>T.

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